

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISTANBUL

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

16AF TORREJON SP/CV

USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION ICAO MONTREAL

COMSIXTHFLT

CONFAIRMED

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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EMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR FAA AND EMBASSY BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THIRD ROUND OF AEGEAN AIR
SPACE TALKS ISSUED IN ATHENS

REF: ANKARA 7035

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1. THE JOINT GREEK-TURKISH COMMUNIQUE ON THE AEGEAN

AIR SPACE TALKS HELD IN ISTANBUL SEPTEMBER 8-11 WAS ALSO ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 12 IN ATHENS. IT TRACKS CLOSELY WITH THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOT AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY ANKARA (REFTEL, WITH ONLY MINOR EXCEPTIONS WHICH ARE PROBABLY DUE TO TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT INTO ENGLISH (ALTHOUGH "CONSTANTINOPLE VICE "ISTANBUL" IS USED IN THE GREEK TEXT TO DESCRIBE THE SITE OF THE TALKS).

2. IN ADDITION TO THE COMMUNIQUE, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 14 ATTRIBUTED TO "RELIABLE SOURCES" IN ATHENS. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH EXPERTS ON THE QUESTION OF THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE WILL BE "DECISIVE" AND INDICATIVE AS TO WHETHER TURKEY INTENDS TO SETTLE THE MATTER AND RESTORE THE FUNCTIONING OF ALL AEGEAN AIR SPACES. THESE SAME SOURCES ALSO ALLEGED THAT DURING THE ROUND THREE TALKS, THE TURKISH SIDE SHOWED "RESERVATION" IN ACCEPTING GREEK PROPOSALS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TURKISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO DECIDE ON THE MATTER. THE SOURCES THEN MADE KNOWN THAT "THE GREEK SIDE WISHES A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MATTER BUT THIS DEPENDS ON TURKEY'S ATTITUDE."

3. COMMENT: THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE TO ATTEMPT TO LAY RESPONSIBILITY SQUARELY AT THE TURKISH DOOR SHOULD THE AIR SPACE TALKS ULTIMATELY FOUNDER. ALSO, THE SUGGESTION THAT THE NEXT MEETING (WHICH THE SOURCES INDICATED WILL BE HELD IN ATHENS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER) WOULD BE "DECISIVE," COULD CONSTITUTE A SIGNAL TO THE TURKS THAT THE GREEKS WILL NOT ALLOW THE TALKS TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY AND THAT THE NEXT ROUND WILL BE THE FINAL ONE INsofar AS THE GREEKS ARE CONCERNED.
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